decide inter-State dispute over the levy of sales tax on companies which do country wide business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ under consideration in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Raj Mahal Coal Project

4283. SHRI SIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the parameters adopted by the Government to fix compensation for land and houses acquired for Raj Mahal Coal Project;

(b) whether the compensation rate fixed for land and houses acquired for Raj Mahal Coal Project is less as compared to compensation rate fixed for National Capital Territory of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the families displaced due to this coal project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Compensation for land is paid as decided by the Land Acquisition Department of Government of Bihar. Compensation for houses is paid on the basis of assessment made as per the current schedule of rate of the PWD, Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c) Rates of compensation for land and houses vary from place to place according to local conditions. Since coal is not mined in the National Capital Territory comparison of rates of compensation is not feasible.

(d) Rehabilitation of families is done as per prevailing rehabilitation policy of CIL duly approved by Government of India. Besides payment of compensation for land and existing house structure, displaced families are provided with a free house hold plot in the rehabilitation site finalised after discussion with the affected persons people's representatives and district administration, with infrastructure facilities like drinking water, road, school, community centre, shopping centre, pond, play ground, place of worship, drain etc. are also provided by the Coal Companies at the rehabilitation site.

Closure of Industries

4284. PROF. JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Industries closed during the last three years till date, sector-wise;

(b) the reasons for closure of these industries;

(c) whether the Government have any policy of revival for closed industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Irregularities

4285. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Arbon ke ghotale ko 'imbalance' keh kar dabaane ki tayari" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 18 December, 1996.

(b) if so, the facts of the points raised thereon; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take to check the financial irregularities and also to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Growth

4286. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day seminar on Industry, Trade, Commerce and Banking was held recently in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, whether he has stressed the need to step up exports in order to make the country's economy bouyant;

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to improve the growth of exports during 1997;

(d) whether the growth of exports during 1996 was below the target; and

(e) if so, to what extent programmes are being made to improve the exports during 1997-98 ?